

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

An Office Action was mailed December 19, 2005. The present response is submitted timely. Any fees, including any necessary extension fees thereto may be charged to Deposit Account 50-1290.

Applicant has carefully reviewed the Examiner's Office Action dated December 19, 2005, in which the Examiner rejected claims 3 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter; rejected claims 1 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bates et al.(US 6,004,624) in view of Oiwa et al.(US 5,868,884) and in further view of any one of Kwon(US 6,069,103), Chatterjee et al.(US 6,156,246) and/or Saitoh et al.(US 4,784,812); rejected claims 2-4, 6-8 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bates et al. in view of Oiwa et al. and in further view of any one of Kwon, Chatterjee et al., Saitoh et al., and/or Danforth et al.(US 5,997,795); and rejected claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bates et al. in view of Oiwa et al. and in further view of any one of Kwon, Chatterjee et al., Saitoh et al., Danforth et al., Lipp(US 5,406,058), and/or Brands et al.(US 6,142,774). Claims 9-11 and 13-15 are allowable.

To overcome the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejections, claims 1-8, 12 and 16 have been cancelled and claims 9 and 13 have been amended to include all the limitations of the independent claim. All dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as the independent claim from which they depend.

The cross-reference to related applications has been updated as requested by amendment to the specification. No new matter has been added.

Applicant believes that this is a full and complete response to the Office Action. For the reasons discussed above, applicant now respectfully submits that all of the pending

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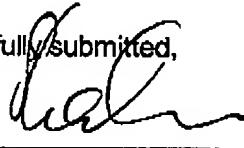
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claims are in complete condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner's rejections be withdrawn; and that the claims 9-11 and 13-15 be allowed in their present form. If the Examiner feels that any issues that remain require discussions, he is kindly invited to contact applicant's undersigned attorney to resolve the issues.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims an/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects, in order to place the case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendment or correction be carried out by Examiner's Amendment and the case be passed to issue.

Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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Attorney Docket FLK 20.377 (032878-00056)